

REMARKS

Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration. To facilitate allowance of the application, Applicant has canceled claims 2, 7, 9, 77, 79 and 82 without prejudice or disclaimer. Claims 91 and 95 have been amended to eliminate the lack of antecedent basis identified by the Examiner. As a result, claims 88-95 are pending for examination with claims 88 and 91 being independent claims. No new matter has been added.

Applicant notes with appreciation the allowance of claims 88-90 and 92-94.

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 102

The Examiner rejected claims 2, 9, 77 and 82 under 35 U.S.C. § 102 as being anticipated by Fikes et al. (PCT Publication No. WO 95/04542). Although Applicant disagrees with the Examiner's interpretation of the prior art, Applicant has canceled these claims and therefore respectfully requests withdrawal of the rejection.

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. §103

The Examiner rejected claims 2, 7, 9, 77, 79 and 82 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as unpatentable over Fikes et al. in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,043,347 (Gelder et al.). Although Applicant disagrees with the Examiner's interpretation of the prior art, Applicant has canceled these claims and therefore respectfully requests withdrawal of the rejection.

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. §112

The Examiner rejected claims 79, 91 and 95 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as lacking antecedent basis. Applicant has canceled claim 79 and has amended claims 91 and 95 to overcome the lack of antecedent basis.

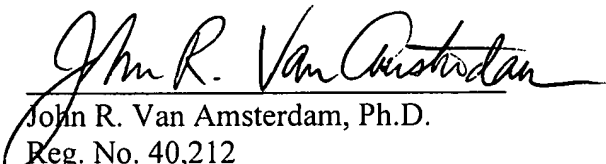
Accordingly, withdrawal of the rejection of claims 79, 91 and 95 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, is respectfully requested.

CONCLUSION

A Notice of Allowance is respectfully requested. The Examiner is requested to call the undersigned at the telephone number listed below if this communication does not place the case in condition for allowance.

If this response is not considered timely filed and if a request for an extension of time is otherwise absent, Applicant hereby requests any necessary extension of time. If there is a fee occasioned by this response, including an extension fee, that is not covered by an enclosed check, please charge any deficiency to Deposit Account No. 23/2825.

Respectfully submitted,

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